

InsB27

1 37. (New) A method according to claim 36, further comprising,  
2 issuing a priority channel request to the servicing communication station if the result of  
3 the comparison reveals that the received digits correspond to an emergency code.

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1 ~~38.~~ (New) A method according to claim ~~37~~, wherein the priority channel request denotes a  
2 priority class of service that is greater than that of non-emergency telephone calls, such that the  
3 servicing communication station reallocates communication channel parameters to facilitate the  
4 priority channel request.

InsB37

1 39. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein reallocation of communication channel  
2 parameters include one or more of tearing down a lower priority communication channel to  
3 facilitate the priority channel request, reallocation of bandwidth of one or more communication  
4 channels to provide bandwidth to the priority channel request, modifying a spatial domain  
5 multiple access (SDMA) reuse pattern to provide bandwidth for the priority channel request, and  
6 the like.

Cont.

1 40. (New) A method according to claim 35, wherein determining whether a communication  
2 channel is available comprises:  
3 receiving an off-hook detection signal at the transceiver;  
4 issuing a channel request from the transceiver to the servicing communication station;  
5 and

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6 receiving a response at the transceiver from the communication station to the channel  
7 request denoting whether a communication channel is available.

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1 ~~41.~~ (New) A method according to claim ~~35~~, wherein the indication that all communication  
2 channels are currently unavailable includes one or more of a fast busy signal, a null signal  
3 (silence), a monotone signal, and/or any signal other than a dial tone.

1 42. (New) A method according to claim 35, further comprising:  
2 issuing a priority channel request to the servicing communication station if the subscriber  
3 unit receives digits from the telephone interface denoting one or more emergency codes  
4 associated with one or more emergency services.

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Imp E47

Cont.

1 ~~43.~~ (New) A method according to claim ~~42~~, further comprising:  
2 facilitating the emergency telephone call over a communication channel made available  
3 by the communication station through call completion.

1 44. (New) A method according to claim 35, further comprising:  
2 converting dual-tone, multiple frequency (DTMF) tones received from the telephone  
3 interface representing the telephone number entered by the user to digital signal(s) for the  
4 transceiver.

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1 45. (New) A method according to claim 44, wherein said conversion is performed even if the  
2 subscriber unit receives an indication from the servicing communication station that all  
3 communication channels are currently unavailable.

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1 ~~46.~~ (New) A method according to claim ~~38~~, wherein the emergency codes are one or more of  
2 a telephone number, a speed-dial code and/or a shortened emergency services code.

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1 ~~47.~~ (New) An article of manufacture comprising a machine accessible storage medium to  
2 provide machine executable instructions which, when executed, cause a machine to implement a  
3 method according to claim ~~35~~.

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1 48. (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit comprising:  
2 a telephone interface, to enable a user to enter a telephone number to place a telephone  
3 call; and  
4 a transceiver, coupled to the telephone interface, to accept entry of a telephone number  
5 entered by the user even after determining that no communication channels are currently  
6 available from a servicing communication station, and to issue a priority channel request to the  
7 communication station for a communication channel if the telephone number received from the  
8 telephone interface corresponds to one or more emergency services.

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1 ~~49.~~ (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim ~~48~~, further comprising:

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2 an off-hook signal generator, responsive to the telephone interface, to generate an off-  
3 hook signal to prompt the transceiver to request a communication channel from the  
4 communication station when the user lifts a handset of the telephone interface to place a call.

1 <sup>17</sup>~~50~~. (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim <sup>16</sup>~~49~~, wherein the  
2 transceiver responds to the off-hook signal by requesting a communication channel and  
3 providing the telephone interface with an indication denoting whether a communication channel  
4 is available from the communication station.

1 <sup>18</sup>~~51~~. (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim <sup>17</sup>~~50~~, wherein the  
2 transceiver provides one or more of a fast busy signal, a constant monotone signal, and/or any  
3 tone other than a dial tone as an indication to the user via the telephone interface that no  
4 communication channels are currently available to facilitate a telephone call.

1 <sup>19</sup>~~52~~. (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim <sup>15</sup>~~48~~, further comprising:  
2 a dual-tone, multiple frequency (DTMF) converter to convert DTMF signals generated by  
3 the telephone interface representing the telephone number entered by the user in to digital signals  
4 appropriate for input to the transceiver.

1 <sup>7ms 57</sup>~~53~~. (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 52, wherein the DTMF  
2 converter remains enabled to receive and convert DTMF signals for the transceiver even if the  
3 transceiver determines that no communication channels are currently available.

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1 ~~54.~~ (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim ~~53~~, wherein the  
2 transceiver receives and decodes the digital signals to determine whether the user is dialing an  
3 emergency number, even if there are no communication channels available to support the call.

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1 ~~55.~~ (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim ~~54~~, further comprising:  
2 a memory device, to store one or more codes associated with an associated one or more  
3 emergency services, wherein the transceiver compares received digital signals associated with a  
4 user-entered telephone number against the stored one or more codes to determine whether the  
5 user is telephone number is associated with the one or more emergency services.

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1 ~~56.~~ (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 55, wherein the  
2 transceiver compares the digital signals associated with the user-entered telephone number  
3 against the one or more codes on a digit-by-digit basis as the telephone number is entered.

1 ~~57.~~ (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 48, the transceiver  
2 comprising:  
3 a memory, to receive and retain one or more codes associated an associated one or more  
4 emergency services; and  
5 a processor, coupled to the memory, to receive digital signals representative of the dialed  
6 telephone number and compare the received signals to the one or more codes stored in memory  
7 to detect telephone calls to the one or more emergency services.

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1 ~~58.~~ (New) A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim ~~48~~, further comprising:

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cont.

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2 an on-/off-hook detector, coupled between the telephone device and the transceiver, to  
3 provide an off-hook indication to the transceiver when the user lifts a handset of the telephone  
4 interface.

1 59. (New) A wireless local loop communication system comprising:  
2 a communication station, to communicatively couple the one or more wireless local loop  
3 subscriber units to a wireline telephony network; and  
4 a wireless local loop subscriber unit, communicatively coupled to the communication  
5 station, to accept entry of a telephone number by a user via a telephone interface even after  
6 determining that no communication channels are currently available between the subscriber and  
7 the communication station, and to determine whether the telephone number entered corresponds  
8 to one or more emergency services necessitating a priority channel request for a communication  
9 channel if no communication channels are otherwise available.

1 60. (New) A wireless local loop system according to claim 59, the wireless local loop  
2 subscriber unit comprising:  
3 a transceiver, coupled to the telephone interface, to accept the telephone number entered  
4 by the user even after determining that no communication channels are currently available, and to  
5 issue a priority channel request for a communication channel if the telephone number entered  
6 corresponds to one or more stored emergency codes associated with a commensurate one or more  
7 emergency services.

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Con. 1 61. (New) A wireless local loop system according to claim 60, wherein the transceiver issues  
2 one or more priority channel request(s) to the communication station to obtain a communication  
3 channel if no communication channels are otherwise available upon detecting entry by the user  
4 of a code associated with an emergency service.

1 62. (New) A wireless local loop system according to claim 60, wherein the stored codes  
2 include one or more of a standard telephone number associated with a single emergency service,  
3 a speed dial code, and/or a shortened telephone number to an agency serving multiple emergency  
4 services.

1 63. (New) A wireless local loop system according to claim 62, the subscriber unit further  
2 comprising:  
3 a memory device, coupled to the transceiver, to receive and retain one or more emergency  
4 codes.

1 64. (New) A wireless local loop system according to claim 59, the communication station  
2 comprising:  
3 a transceiver, to receive priority channel requests from one or more subscriber units and  
4 modify one or more communication channel parameters to accommodate a priority channel  
5 request when no communication channels are otherwise available.

1 65. (New) A wireless local loop system according to claim 64, wherein the modification of  
2 one or more communication channel parameters includes one or more of tearing down an

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3 existing call to free the communication channel to accommodate the priority channel request,  
4 lowering bandwidth associated with one or more communication channels to free bandwidth for  
5 an additional communication channel to accommodate the priority channel request, and/or  
6 modifying one or more spatial domain, multiple access (SDMA) reuse parameters to obtain a  
7 communication channel to accommodate the priority channel request.

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1 66. (New) An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a machine accessible medium to provide instructions which, when executed by a wireless  
3 local loop subscriber unit, cause the subscriber unit to determine whether a communication  
4 channel is available at a servicing communication station to accommodate a telephone call upon  
5 detecting an off-hook signal from a telephone interface, provide the telephone interface with an  
6 indication denoting the unavailability of a communication channel if it is determined that the  
7 communication station does not have a communication channel available, and enable receipt of  
8 one or more digits of a telephone number from the telephone interface even if no communication  
9 channels are available to determine whether a priority channel request is required to facilitate an  
10 emergency telephone call.

1 67. (New) An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions  
2 which, when executed, cause a wireless local loop subscriber unit to compare each of the  
3 received digits, as received, against one or more emergency codes maintained in the subscriber  
4 unit to determine whether the received digits correspond to one or more emergency services  
5 associated with the one or more emergency codes.



INSB87  
1 68. (New) An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions  
2 which, when executed, cause the wireless local loop subscriber unit to issue a priority channel  
3 request upon detecting entry of an emergency code even if no communication channels are  
4 currently available.

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1 ~~69.~~ (New) An article of manufacture according to claim ~~68~~, wherein the priority channel  
2 request denotes a priority class of service that is greater than that of non-emergency telephone  
3 calls, such that the servicing communication station reallocates communication channel  
4 parameters to facilitate the priority channel request.

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1 70. (New) An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions  
2 which, when executed, cause a wireless local loop subscriber unit to facilitate an emergency  
3 telephone call through completion via a communication channel made available by the  
4 communication station in response to the subscriber units priority channel request.

INSB87  
1 71. (New) An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions  
2 which, when executed, cause a wireless local loop subscriber unit to convert dual-tone, multiple  
3 frequency (DTMF) tones received from the telephone interface representing the telephone  
4 number entered by the user to digital signal(s), wherein said conversion is performed even if the  
5 subscriber unit receives an indication from the servicing communication station that all  
6 communication channels are currently unavailable.